



VERMONT DELEGATE SELECTION PLAN

FOR THE 2016 DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL CONVENTION

ISSUED BY THE VERMONT DEMOCRATIC PARTY

FINAL
JUNE 3, 2015

DELEGATE SELECTION PLAN FOR THE 2016 NATIONAL CONVENTION

Enter name of state: Vermont

Enter number of Pledged PLEO Delegates: 2

Enter total number of Delegates: 24

Date of Selection of Pledged PLEO Delegates: June 11, 2016

Enter total number of Alternates: 2

Enter number of At-Large Delegates: 3

Select type of System: Primary

Date of Selection of At-Large Delegates: June 11, 2016

Enter number of District-Level Delegates: 11

Enter number of At-Large Alternates: 2

Date of selection of District-Level Delegates: May 21, 2016

Date of Selection of At-Large Alternates: June 11, 2016

Enter number of District-Level Alternates: 0

Enter total number of Standing Committee Members: 3

Date of selection of District-Level Alternates: NA

Enter total number of Convention Pages: 2

The Vermont Delegate Selection Plan For the 2016 Democratic National Convention

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Section 1

Introduction & Description of Delegate Selection Process

A. Introduction

1. Vermont has a total of **24** delegates and 2 alternates. (Call, I. & Appendix B.)
2. The delegate selection process is governed by the *Charter and Bylaws of the Democratic Party of the United States*, the *Delegate Selection Rules for the 2016 Democratic National Convention* (“Rules”), the *Call for the 2016 Democratic National Convention* (“Call”), the *Regulations of the Rules and Bylaws Committee for the 2016 Democratic National Convention* (“Regs.”), the rules of the Democratic Party of Vermont, the Vermont election code, and this Delegate Selection Plan. (Call, II.A.)
3. Following the adoption of this Delegate Selection Plan by the State Party Committee, it shall be submitted for review and approval by the DNC Rules and Bylaws Committee (“RBC”). The State Party Chair shall be empowered to make any technical revisions to this document as required by the RBC to correct any omissions and/or deficiencies as found by the RBC to ensure its full compliance with Party Rules. Such corrections shall be made by the State Party Chair and the Plan resubmitted to the RBC within 30 days of receipt of notice of the RBC’s findings. (Regs. 2.5, 2.6 & 2.7)
4. Once this Plan has been found in Compliance by the RBC, any amendment to the Plan by the State Party will be submitted to and approved by the RBC before it becomes effective. (Reg. 2.9)

B. Description of Delegate Selection Process

1. Vermont will use a proportional representation system based on the results of the Presidential Preference Primary, apportioning delegates to the 2016 Democratic National Convention.
2. The “first determining step” of Vermont’s delegate selection process will occur on March 1, 2016, with a Primary. (17 V.S.A. § 2701) This is also “Town Meeting Day” and it is expected that many towns will have ballot items and school budgets to vote on. There is no other candidate election. Results will be certified on March 8, 2016.
3. Voter Participation in Process
 - a. Participation in Vermont’s delegate selection process is open to all voters who wish to participate as Democrats.
 - Vermont’s voter registration deadline for the Presidential Primary Election is 5 P.M. on February 24, 2016

- There is no party registration in Vermont. Voters will have the party ballot they request on record at the Town Clerk's office.
 - The Vermont Democratic Party will be sending out electronic and mail communication to promote and improve participation of Democrats in the primary.
 - Through the 2015 Party Reorganization efforts, the Vermont Democratic Party will be growing and engaging new Democrats in the structure of the State Party and will encourage both reorganized and new Town Committees to take an active role in promoting the Presidential Primary to local Democratic voters.
- b. At no stage of Vermont's delegate selection process shall any person be required, directly or indirectly, to pay a cost or fee as a condition for participating. Voluntary contributions to the Party may be made, but under no circumstances shall a contribution be mandatory for participation. Any voluntary contributions made to the Vermont Democratic Party by potential delegates or alternates during this process shall be used to help defray possible convention costs for low-income delegates whose applications for assistance are approved by the Affirmative Action Committee. (Rule 2.D. & Reg. 4.4.)
- c. No persons shall participate or vote in the nominating process for the Democratic presidential candidate who also participates in the nominating process of any other party for the corresponding elections. (Rule 2.E.)
- d. No person shall vote in more than one meeting, which is the first meeting in the delegate selection process. (Rule 3.E. & Reg. 4.6.)
4. Vermont is participating in the state government-run presidential preference primary that will utilize government-run voting systems. The State Party has taken provable positive steps to:
- a. Promote the acquisition, maintenance, and regular replacement of accessible precinct based optical scan systems, wherever possible. (Rule 2.H.(1))
 - b. Seek enactment of legislation, rules, and policies at the state and local level to ensure that direct recording electronic systems include a voter verified paper trail (Rule 2.H.(2))
 - c. Seek enactment of legislation; rules and policies at the state and local level to ensure that both optical scan and direct recording electronic systems include recognized security measures. These measures include automatic routine manual audits comparing paper records to electronic records following every election and prior to certification or results where possible; parallel testing on election day; physical and electronic security for equipment; banning use of wireless components and connections except where required to provide a voter with a disability a secure and approved means to access voting materials and exercise the right to vote; public disclosure of software design; use

of transparent and random selection for all auditing procedures; and effective procedures for addressing evidence of fraud or error. (Rule 2.H.(3))

5. These provable positive steps have included: the promotion of the corrective legislation by the state and local parties, the VDP's public endorsement of legislation that supports the integrity of the voting system, and the inclusion of such standards in the VDP platform.
6. Scheduling of Delegate Selection Meetings – The dates, times and places for all official Party meetings and events related to the state's delegate selection process have been scheduled to encourage the participation of all Democrats. Such meetings will begin and end at reasonable hours. The State Party will consider any religious observations that could significantly affect participation when scheduling delegate selection meetings.

Section II Presidential Candidates

A. Ballot Access

Presidential primary petitions and consent forms for major party candidates who wish to be on the ballot for a major party presidential primary shall be filed with the Secretary of State not later than 5:00 p.m. on the first Monday after the first Tuesday of January, signed by at least 1,000 registered Vermont voters. The petitions must be accompanied by a \$2,000.00 filing fee and a consent of candidate to the printing of his or her name on the ballot. If the petition is accompanied by an affidavit of the candidate that the candidate and the candidate's campaign committee are without sufficient funds to pay the filing fee, the secretary of state shall waive all but \$300.00 of the payment. 17 V.S.A. §§ 2702, 2353, 2354, 2358 In accordance with 17 V.S.A. § 2103(13), presidential primary petitions will be accepted by the secretary of state's office until 5:00 p.m. on Monday, January 11.

For more information, contact the Secretary of State Election Division at (800) 439-8683 or contact Office of the Secretary of State, Elections Division, 128 State Street, Montpelier, VT, 05633

- B. Each presidential candidate shall certify in writing to the State Democratic Chair, the name(s) of his or her authorized representative(s) by January 13, 2016. Correspondence may be sent to Vermont Democratic Party, PO Box 1220, Montpelier, VT, 05601 (Rule 12.D.(1))
- C. Each presidential candidate (including uncommitted status) shall use his or her best efforts to ensure that his or her respective delegation within the state delegation achieves the affirmative action goals established by this Plan and is equally divided between men and women. (Rule 6.I.)

Section III Selection of Delegates and Alternates

A. District-Level Delegates and Alternates

1. Vermont is allocated 11 district-level delegates and 0 district-level alternates. (Rule 8.C., Call, I.B., I.I. & Appendix B.) Pursuant to Reg. 4.31, Vermont has chosen to allocate all of its alternates at the at-large level.
2. District-level delegates and alternates shall be allocated by a Presidential preference primary on March 1, 2016, followed by a post-primary caucus on March 26, 2016 to elect delegates to the state convention on May 21, 2016, where the district delegates and alternates are chosen.
3. Apportionment of District-Level Delegates and Alternates

Vermont’s district-level delegates and alternates are apportioned among the districts based on a formula giving equal weight to the vote for the Democratic candidates in the 2012 presidential and the most recent gubernatorial elections. Without Party Registration, this is the best way to ascertain the percentage of Democrats across Vermont. This is the most inclusive and accurate method, as it takes into consideration the self-identification of party on the presidential primary ballot, as well as the estimated Democratic performance as it relates to the most prominent statewide, non-federal candidate, which have been the most competitive races in recent election cycles. (Rule 8.A.; Regs. 4.10., 4.11 & Appendix A)

- a. The state’s total number of district-level delegates will be equally divided between men and women.
- b. The district-level delegates and alternates are apportioned to districts as indicated in the following chart:

District	Delegates			Alternates		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
Statewide	5	6	11	0	0	0

4. District-Level Delegate and Alternate Filing Requirements

- a. A district-level delegate and alternate candidate may run for election only within the district in which he or she is registered to vote. (Rule 12.H.)
- b. An individual can qualify as a candidate for district-level delegate or at-large alternate to the 2016 Democratic National Convention by filing a statement of candidacy designating his or her singular presidential (or uncommitted) preference and a signed pledge of support for the presidential candidate (including uncommitted status) by mail only with the State Party by May 5, 2016. A delegate or at-large alternate may modify his or her singular presidential preference by submitting an updated pledge of support no later than the filing deadline (Rule 12.B, Rule 14.F & Reg 4.21)

All candidacy designations must be received by this date at the following address:

Vermont Democratic Party
ATTN: Delegate Selection,
P.O. Box 1220, Montpelier, VT 05601 (Rules 12.B. & 14.F.)

The State Party will provide a standard form to be used as a statement of candidacy and pledge of support; however, no candidate shall be denied access to the ballot for failure to use such a form if they provide a statement of candidacy and signed pledge of support substantially similar in content to the information required on the party form. (Reg. 4.21.)

- c. All candidates considered for district-level alternate positions must meet the same requirements as candidates for district-level delegate positions except that the state may allow candidates who were not chosen at the delegate level to be considered at the alternate level. (Rule 12.C.)

5. Presidential Candidate Right of Review for District-Level Delegates and Alternates

- a. The State Democratic Chair shall convey to the presidential candidate, or that candidate's authorized representative(s), not later than 5 P.M. May 9, 2016, a list of all persons who have filed for delegate or alternate pledged to that presidential candidate. (Rules 12.D. & 12.F.)
- b. Each presidential candidate, or that candidate's authorized representative(s), must then file with the State Democratic Chair by May 12, 2016 a list of all such candidates he or she has approved, provided that approval be given to at least three (3) times the number of candidates for delegate men and three (3) times the number of candidates for delegate women, and three (3) times the number of candidates for alternate men and three (3) times the number of alternate women to be selected. (Rule 12.E.(1), Reg. 4.23.)
- c. Failure to respond will be deemed approval of all delegate and alternate candidates submitted to the presidential candidate unless the presidential candidate, or the

authorized representative(s), signifies otherwise in writing to the State Democratic Chair not later than May 12, 2016.

- d. National convention delegate and alternate candidates removed from the list of bona fide supporters by a presidential candidate, or that candidate's authorized representative(s), may not be elected as a delegate or alternate at that level pledged to that presidential candidate (including uncommitted status). (Rule 12.E. & Reg. 4.23.)
- e. The State Democratic Chair shall certify in writing to the Co-Chairs of the DNC Rules and Bylaws Committee whether each presidential candidate (including uncommitted status) has used their best efforts to ensure that their respective district-level delegate candidates and district-level alternate candidates meet the affirmative action and inclusion considerations and goals detailed in the Affirmative Action section of this Plan within three (3) business days of returning the list of approved district-level delegate candidates and district-level alternate candidates as indicated in section III.A.5.b of this Plan.

6. Fair Reflection of Presidential Preference

- a. Presidential Primary - Proportional Representation Plan (Rules 13.A., 13.B. & 13.D.)

The Vermont presidential primary election is a "binding" primary. Accordingly, delegate and alternate positions shall be allocated so as to fairly reflect the expressed presidential (or uncommitted) preference of the primary voters in each district. The National Convention delegates and alternates selected at the district level shall be allocated in proportion to the percentage of the primary vote won in that district by each preference, except that preferences falling below a 15% threshold shall not be awarded any delegates or alternates.

- b. Within a district, if no presidential preference reaches a 15% threshold, the threshold shall be the percentage of the vote received in that district by the front-runner minus 10%. (Rule 13.F.)
- c. District-level delegates and alternates shall be selected by presidential preference caucuses at the May 21, 2016 State Convention. Only State Convention delegates and alternates who have certified (including a signed pledge of support) may participate in the respective presidential caucuses. Each caucus will be provided with pre-printed ballots of all eligible candidates for the delegate positions, and accurate reporting of the number and gender of delegates and alternates to be elected. The first delegate position of the presidential preference winning the largest number of votes shall be designated as female, with subsequent delegate positions alternating by gender and the top vote getters (of the proper gender equal to the number of delegate slots to be elected) with each presidential preference caucus declared elected as delegates. State Convention delegates must sign their ballots. Unsigned ballots will be considered invalid. Election procedures and vote counting will be overseen by the Vermont

Democratic Party with the participation of the respective presidential campaigns. (Rule 12.G.)

7. Equal Division of District-Level Delegates and Alternates

- a. In order to ensure the district-level delegates are equally divided between men and women, delegate positions within each district will be designated by presidential preference beginning with the highest vote-getting presidential preference. This assignment of delegate positions, alternating by sex as mathematically practicable, will continue with the next highest vote-getting preferences in descending order until the gender of each position has been assigned. (Rule 6.C.(1) & Reg. 4.8.)
- b. Alternates will be selected at the at-large level, and will be equally divided between men and women.

8. The State Democratic Chair shall certify in writing to the Secretary of the Democratic National Committee (DNC) the election of the state's district-level delegates and alternates to the Democratic National Convention within 10 days after their election. (Rule 8.C. & Call, IV.A.)

B. Unpledged Delegates

1. Unpledged Party Leaders and Elected Officials

- a. The following categories (if applicable) shall constitute the Unpledged Party Leaders and Elected Official delegate positions:
 - (1) Members of the Democratic National Committee who legally reside in the state; (Rule 9.A.(1), Call, I.F., J., & Reg. 4.13.)
 - (2) Democratic President and Democratic Vice President (if applicable); (Rule 9.A.2., Call I.G.)
 - (3) All of Vermont's Democratic Members of the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate; (Rule 9.A.(3), Call I.H. & J.)
 - (4) The Democratic Governor (if applicable); (Rule 9.A.(4), Call I.H. & J.)
 - (5) "Distinguished Party Leader" delegates who legally reside in the state (if applicable); [Persons who qualify as "Distinguished Party Leader" delegates are: all former Democratic Presidents or Vice Presidents, all former Democratic Leaders of the U.S. Senate, all former Democratic Speakers of the U.S. House of Representatives and Democratic Minority Leaders, as applicable, and all former Chairs of the Democratic National Committee.] (Rule 9.A.(5), Call I.G., and Reg. 4.13.)
- b. The certification process for the Unpledged Party Leader and Elected Official delegates is as follows:

- (1) Not later than March 1, 2016, the Secretary of the Democratic National Committee shall officially confirm to the State Democratic Chair the names of the unpledged delegates who legally reside in Vermont. (Rule 9.A.)
 - (2) Official confirmation by the Secretary shall constitute verification of the unpledged delegates from the categories indicated above. (Call, IV.B.1.)
 - (3) The State Democratic Chair shall certify in writing to the Secretary of the DNC the presidential preference of state's unpledged delegates 10 days after the completion of the State's Delegate Selection Process. (Call, IV.B)
2. For purposes of achieving equal division between delegate men and delegate women within the state's entire convention delegation, the entire delegation includes all pledged and unpledged delegates. (Rule 6.C)

C. Pledged Party Leader and Elected Official (PLEO) Delegates

1. Vermont is allotted 2 pledged Party Leader and Elected Official (PLEO) delegates. (Call, I.D., E. & Appendix B)
2. Pledged PLEO Delegate Filing Requirements
 - a. Individuals shall be eligible for the pledged Party Leader and Elected Official delegate positions according to the following priority: big city mayors and state-wide elected officials (to be given equal consideration); state legislative leaders, state legislators, and other state, county and local elected officials and party leaders. (Rule 9.B.(1) & Reg. 4.15.)
 - b. An individual can qualify as a candidate for a position as a pledged PLEO delegate by Filing a statement of candidacy and signed pledge of support by 4PM on May 27, 2016 with the State Party Committee office located at 73 Main Street, Suite 400, Montpelier, VT, 05602 or PO Box 1220, Montpelier, VT 05601. (Rules 9.B.(3), & 14.G., Reg. 4.16.)
 - c. In the statement of candidacy, Pledged PLEO delegate candidates must be identified as to a singular presidential preference or uncommitted status. This can be modified by submitting an updated pledge of support before the filing deadline. (Rule 9.B.(3) & Reg. 4.16.)
3. Presidential Candidate Right of Review
 - a. The State Democratic Chair shall convey to the presidential candidate, or that candidate's authorized representative(s), not later than May 30, 2016 a list of all persons who have filed for a party and elected official delegate pledged to that presidential candidate. (Rules 9.B.(3) & 12.D.)

Each presidential candidate, or that candidate's authorized representative(s), must file with the State Democratic Chair, by June 6, 2016 a list of all such candidates he or she

has approved, as long as approval is given to at least two (2) names for every position to which the presidential candidate is entitled. (Rule 12.E.(2) & Reg. 4.23.)

- b. Failure to respond will be deemed approval of all delegate candidates submitted to the presidential candidate unless the presidential candidate or the authorized representative(s) signifies otherwise in writing to the State Democratic Chair not later than 4PM, June 6, 2016.
 - c. The State Democratic Chair shall certify in writing to the Co-Chairs of the DNC Rules and Bylaws Committee whether each presidential candidate (including uncommitted status) has used their best efforts to ensure that their respective pledged PLEO delegate candidates meet the affirmative action and inclusion considerations and goals detailed in the Affirmative Action section of this Plan within three (3) business days of returning the list of approved pledged PLEO candidates as indicated in section III.C.3.b of this Plan.
4. Selection of Pledged Party Leader and Elected Official Delegates
- a. The pledged PLEO slots shall be allocated among presidential preferences on the same basis as the at-large delegates. (Rule 9.B.(2), 10.C., 13.E. & F.)
 - b. Selection of the pledged PLEO delegates will occur at 12 PM on June 11, 2016 at the VDP headquarters, 73 Main Street, Suite 400, Montpelier, VT 05602, which is after the election of district-level delegates and alternates and prior to the selection of at-large delegates and alternates. These delegates will be selected by signed, written ballot. These delegate positions may be used to achieve equal representation between men and women and minority groups. (Rule 9.B.)
 - c. These delegates will be selected by: a committee consisting of a quorum of the district-level delegates.
 - d. Alternates are not selected at the pledged Party Leader and Elected Official level. These alternates are combined with the at-large alternates and selected as one unit. (Reg. 4.31)
5. The State Democratic Chair shall certify in writing to the Secretary of the Democratic National Committee the election of the state's pledged Party Leader and Elected Official delegates to the Democratic National Convention within ten (10) days after their election. (Rule 8.D. & Call, IV.A.)

C. At-Large Delegates And Alternates

1. The state of Vermont is allotted 3 at-large delegates and 2 at-large alternates. (Rule 8.C., Call, I.B., II. & Appendix B)
2. At-Large Delegate and Alternate Filing Requirements
 - a. Persons desiring to seek at-large delegate or alternate positions may file a statement of candidacy designating their singular presidential or uncommitted preference and a signed pledge of support for the presidential candidates (including uncommitted status)

with the State Party by May 28, 2016. A delegate or alternate candidate may modify his or her singular presidential preference by submitting an updated pledge of support no later than the filing deadline. (Rules 12.B. & 14.G.; Regs. 4.22, 4.27 & 4.31)

- b. The statement of candidacy for at-large delegates and for at-large alternates will be the same. After the at-large delegates are elected by The State Convention, those persons not chosen will then be considered candidates for at-large alternate positions unless they specify otherwise when filing. (Rule 18.A.)

3. Presidential Candidate Right of Review

- a. The State Democratic Chair shall convey to the presidential candidate, or that candidate's authorized representative(s), not later than 4 PM, June 6, 2016 a list of all persons who have filed for delegate or alternate pledged to that presidential candidate. (Rule 12.D.) (Reg. 4.22. & 4.27.)
- b. Each presidential candidate, or that candidate's authorized representative(s), must then file with the State Democratic Chair immediately after the election of the PLEO delegates a list of all at-large delegate candidates he or she has approved, provided that, at a minimum, two names remain for every national convention delegate or alternate position to which the presidential candidate is entitled. (Rule 12.E.(2) & Reg. 4.23.)
- c. Failure to respond will be deemed approval of all delegate candidates submitted to the presidential candidate unless the presidential candidate or the authorized representative(s) signifies otherwise in writing to the State Democratic Chair immediately after the election of the PLEO delegates.
- d. The State Democratic Chair shall certify in writing to the Co-Chairs of the DNC Rules and Bylaws Committee whether each presidential candidate (including uncommitted status) has used their best efforts to ensure that their respective at-large delegate candidates and at-large alternate candidates meet the affirmative action and inclusion considerations and goals detailed in the Affirmative Action section of this Plan within three (3) business days of returning the list of approved at-large delegate candidates and at-large alternate candidates as indicated in section III.D.3.b of this Plan.

4. Fair Reflection of Presidential Preference

- a. At-large delegate and alternate positions shall be allocated among presidential preferences according to statewide primary vote (Rule 10.C.)
- b. Preferences which have not attained a 15% threshold on a statewide basis shall not be entitled to any at-large delegates. (Rule 13.E.)
- c. If no presidential preference reaches a 15% threshold, the threshold shall be the percentage of the statewide vote received by the front-runner, minus 10%. (Rule 13.F.)

- d. If a presidential candidate is no longer a candidate at the time of selection of the at-large delegates, then those at-large slots that would have been allocated to the candidate will be proportionally divided among the remaining preferences entitled to an allocation. (Rule 10.C.)
- e. If a given presidential preference is entitled to one or more delegate positions but would not otherwise be entitled to an alternate position, that preference shall be allotted one at-large alternate position. (Rule 18.B., Call, I.I. & Reg. 4.30.& 4.33.)

5. Selection of At-Large Delegates and Alternates

- a. The selection of the at-large delegates and alternates will occur at 2 PM in Montpelier at the VDP Headquarters on June 11, 2016 which is after all Pledged Party Leader and Elected Official delegates have been selected. (Rule 8.D. & Call, III.)
- b. At large delegates and alternates shall be elected by written ballot at the June 11, 2016 National Convention Delegate meeting. The election for at-large delegates and alternate positions will take place following the election of district level delegates (at the State Convention) and pledged PLEO Delegates. Voting will be by written ballot, with the top vote getters (of proper gender equal to the number of delegate slots to be elected) within each eligible presidential preference caucus shall be declared elected as alternates. Election procedures and vote counting will be overseen by the Vermont Democratic Party with the participation of the respective campaigns. (Rule 8.E. & Reg. 4.12.)
- c. These delegates and alternates will be selected by a committee consisting of a quorum of the district-level delegates. Presidential candidates should return lists of approved delegates after the selection of PLEO delegates. (Rules 10.B. & 8.E.)
- d. Priority of Consideration
 - (1) In the selection of the at-large delegation priority of consideration shall be given to African Americans, Hispanics, Native Americans, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders and women. (Rule 6.A.)
 - (2) In order to continue the Democratic Party's ongoing efforts to include groups historically under-represented in the Democratic Party's affairs and to assist in the achievement of full participation by these groups, priority of consideration shall be given other groups by virtue of race/ethnicity, age, sexual orientation, gender identity or disability. (Rules 5.C., 6.A.(3), & Reg. 4.7.)
 - (3) The election of at-large delegates and alternates shall be used, if necessary, to achieve the equal division of positions between men and women, and may be used to achieve the representation goals established in the Affirmative Action section of this Plan. (Rule 6.A. & 6.C.)
 - (4) Delegates and alternates are to be considered separate groups for this purpose. (Rules 6.A.(3), 10.A. & Regs. 4.8 & 4.19.)

6. The State Democratic Chair shall certify in writing to the Secretary of the Democratic National Committee the election of the state's at-large delegates and alternates to the Democratic National Convention within ten (10) days after their election. (Rule 8.C. & Call, IV.A.)

D. Replacement of Delegates and Alternates

1. A pledged delegate or alternate may be replaced according to the following guidelines:
 - a. Permanent Replacement of a Delegate: (Rule 18.D.(2))
 - (1) A permanent replacement occurs when a delegate resigns or dies prior to or during the national convention and the alternate replaces the delegate for the remainder of the National Convention.
 - (2) Any alternate permanently replacing a delegate shall be of the same presidential preference (including uncommitted status) and sex of the delegate he/she replaces, and to the extent possible shall be from the same political subdivision within the state as the delegate.
 - (a) In the case where the presidential candidate has only one alternate, that alternate shall become the certified delegate.
 - (b) If a presidential candidate has only one alternate, and that alternate permanently replaces a delegate of the opposite sex, thereby causing the delegation to no longer be equally divided, the delegation shall not be considered in violation of Rule 6.C. In such a case, notwithstanding Rule 18.D.(2), the State Party Committee shall, at the time of a subsequent permanent replacement, replace a delegate with a person of the opposite sex, in order to return the delegation to equal division of men and women. (Reg. 4.33.)
 - (3) If a delegate or alternate candidate has been elected, but not certified by the DNC Secretary resigns, dies, or is no longer eligible to serve, he or she shall be replaced, after consultation with the State Party, by the authorized representative of the presidential campaign to who, he or she is pledged. (Rule 18.D.2)
 - b. Temporary Replacement of a Delegate: (Rule 18.D.(3))
 - (1) A temporary replacement occurs when a delegate is to be absent for a limited period of time during the convention and an alternate temporarily acts in the delegate's place.
 - (2) Any alternate who temporarily replaces a delegate must be of the same presidential preference (including uncommitted status) as the delegate he/she

replaces, and to the extent possible shall be of the same sex and from the same political subdivision within the state as the delegate.

- c. The following system will be used to select permanent and temporary replacements of delegates: The delegate chooses the alternate. (Rule 18.D.(1))
 - d. Certification of Replacements
 - (1) Any alternate who permanently replaces a delegate shall be certified in writing to the Secretary of the DNC by the State Democratic Chair. (Rule 18.D.(2))
 - (2) Permanent replacement of a delegate (as specified above) by an alternate and replacement of a vacant alternate position shall be certified in writing by the **Vermont's** Democratic Chair to the Secretary of the Democratic National Committee within three (3) days after the replacement is selected. (Call, IV.D.1.)
 - (3) Certification of permanent replacements will be accepted by the Secretary up to 72 hours before the first official session of the Convention is scheduled to convene. (Call, IV.D.1. & Reg. 4.31.)
 - (4) In the case where a pledged delegate is permanently replaced after 72 hours before the time the first session is scheduled to convene or, in the case where a pledged delegate is not on the floor of the Convention Hall at the time a roll call vote is taken, an alternate may be designated (as specified above) to cast the delegate's vote. In such case, the Delegation Chair shall indicate the name of the alternate casting the respective delegate's vote on the delegation tally sheet. (Call, VIII.F.3.d., VIII.F.3.b. & Reg. 5.5.)
 - e. A vacant alternate position shall be filled by the delegation. The replacement shall be of the same presidential preference (or uncommitted status), of the same sex and, to the extent possible, from the same political subdivision as the alternate being replaced. (Rule 18.E.)
2. Unpledged delegates shall not be entitled to a replacement, nor shall the state be entitled to a replacement, except under the following circumstances: (Rule 18.E. & Reg. 4.33.)
- a. Members of Congress and the Democratic Governor shall not be entitled to name a replacement. In the event of changes or vacancies in the state's Congressional Delegation, following the official confirmation and prior to the commencement of the National Convention, the DNC Secretary shall recognize only such changes as have been officially recognized by the Democratic Caucus of the U.S. House of Representatives or the Democratic Conference of the U.S. Senate. In the event of a change or vacancy in the state's office of Governor, the DNC shall recognize only such changes as have been officially recognized by the Democratic Governors' Association. (Call, IV.D.2.a.)
 - b. Members of the Democratic National Committee shall not be entitled to a replacement, nor shall the state be entitled to a replacement, except in the case of death of such delegates. In the case where the state's DNC membership changes following the DNC

Secretary's official confirmation, but prior to the commencement of the 2016 Democratic National Convention, acknowledgment by the Secretary of the new DNC member certification shall constitute verification of the corresponding change of unpledged delegates. (Call, IV.D.2.b.)

- c. Unpledged distinguished Party Leader delegates allocated to the state pursuant to Rule 9.A.(5), shall not be entitled to name a replacement, nor shall the state be entitled to name a replacement. (Call, IV.C.2.c.)
- d. In no case may an alternate cast a vote for an unpledged delegate. (Call, VIII.F.3.d.)

Section IV

Convention Standing Committee Members

A. Introduction

Vermont has been allocated 1 member on each of the three standing committees for the 2016 Democratic National Convention (Credentials, Platform and Rules), for a total of 3 members. (Call, VII.A. & Appendix D.)

- 1. Members of the Convention Standing Committees need not be delegates or alternates to the 2016 Democratic National Convention. (Call, VII.A.3.)
- 2. These members will be selected in accordance with the procedures indicated below. (Rule 1.G.)

B. Standing Committee Members

- 1. Selection Meeting
 - a. The members of the standing committees shall be elected by a quorum of Vermont's National Convention delegates, at a meeting to be held on June 11, 2016. (Call, VII.B.1.)
 - b. All members of the delegation shall receive adequate notice of the time, date and place of the meeting to select the standing committee members. (Call, VII.B.1.)
- 2. Allocation of Members
 - a. The members of the standing committees allocated to Vermont shall proportionately represent the presidential preference of all candidates (including uncommitted status) receiving the threshold percentage used in the state's delegation to calculate the at-large apportionment pursuant to Rule 13.E. of the Delegate Selection Rules. (Call, VII.C.1. & Reg. 5.7.)
 - b. The presidential preference of each candidate receiving the applicable percentage or more within the delegation shall be multiplied by the total number of standing committee positions allocated to Vermont. If the result of such multiplication does not

equal 0.455 or above, the presidential preference in question is not entitled to representation on the standing committee. If the result of such multiplication is 0.455 but less than 1.455, the presidential preference is entitled to one (1) position. Those preferences securing more than 1.455 but less than 2.455 are entitled to two (2) positions, etc. (Call, VII.C.2.)

- c. Where the application of this formula results in the total allocation exceeding the total number of committee positions, the presidential candidate whose original figure of representation is farthest from its eventual rounded-off total shall be denied that one (1) additional position. Where the application of this formula results in the total allocation falling short of the total number of committee positions, the presidential candidate whose original figure of representation is closest to the next rounding level shall be allotted an additional committee position. (Call, VII.C.3.)
- d. Standing committee positions allocated to a presidential candidate shall be proportionately allocated, to the extent practicable, to each of the three standing committees. When such allocation results in an unequal distribution of standing committee positions by candidate preference, a drawing shall be conducted to distribute the additional positions. (Call, VII.C.4.)

3. Presidential Candidate Right of Review

- a. Each presidential candidate, or that candidate's authorized representative(s), shall be given adequate notice of the date, time and location of the meeting of the state's delegation authorized to elect standing committee members. (Call, VII.D.1.)
- b. Each presidential candidate, or that candidate's authorized representative(s), must submit to the State Democratic Chair, by June 11, 2016, a minimum of one (1) name for each slot awarded to that candidate for members of each committee. The delegation shall select the standing committee members among the names submitted by the presidential candidates (including uncommitted status). Presidential candidates shall not be required to submit the name of more than one person for each slot awarded to such candidate for members of standing committees. Presidential candidates should provide the names for standing committee members after the PLEO and at-large delegates have been selected. (Call, VII.D.2.)

4. Selection Procedure to Achieve Equal Division

- a. Presidential candidates (including uncommitted status) shall use their best efforts to ensure that their respective delegation of standing committee members shall achieve Vermont's affirmative action goals and that their respective members are equally divided between men and women. (Rule 6.I. & Reg. 4.9.)
- b. In order to achieve fair representation of presidential preference and equal division between men and women of Vermont's three standing committee positions; the following shall be provided:

A separate election shall be conducted for membership on each standing committee.

- (1) The membership of the standing committees shall be as equally divided as possible under the state allocation; if the number is even, the membership shall be equally divided between men and women; if the number is odd, the variance between men and women may not exceed one (1), and the advantaged gender must not remain constant for the three standing committees. (Call, VII.E.1.)
- (2) The positions allocated to each presidential candidate on each committee shall be voted on separately, and the winners shall be the highest vote-getter(s) of the appropriate sex.

5. Certification and Substitution

- a. The State Democratic Chair shall certify the standing committee members in writing to the Secretary of the Democratic National Committee within three (3) days after their selection. (Call, VII.B.3.)
- b. No substitutions will be permitted in the case of standing committee members, except in the case of resignation or death. Substitutions must be made in accordance with the rules and the election procedures specified in this section, and must be certified in writing to the Secretary of the Democratic National Committee within three (3) days after the substitute member is selected but not later than 48 hours before the respective standing committee meets. (Call, VII.B.4.)

Section V The Delegation

- A. Vermont will select one (1) person to serve as Delegation Chair and 2 to serve as Convention Pages. (Call, IV.E., F.1. & Appendix C.)

B. Delegation Chair

1. Selection Meeting

- a. The Delegation Chair shall be selected by a quorum of the state's National Convention Delegates, at a meeting to be held on June 11, 2016.
- b. All members of the delegation shall receive timely notice of the time, date and place of the meeting to select the Delegation Chair. (Rule 3.C.)

2. The State Democratic Chair shall certify the Delegation Chair in writing to the Secretary of the Democratic National Committee within three (3) days after his or her selection. (Call, IV.E.)

C. Convention Pages

1. **2** individuals will be selected to serve as Vermont’s Convention Pages by the State Democratic Chair in consultation with the members of the Democratic National Committee from the state. This selection will take place June 11 2016. (Call, IV.F.3., Appendix C & Reg. 5.6.)
2. The Convention Pages shall be as evenly divided between men and women as possible under the state allocation and shall reflect as much as possible, the Affirmative Action guidelines in the Affirmative Action Plan. (Reg. 5.6.A.)
3. The State Democratic Chair shall certify the individuals to serve as Vermont’s Convention Pages in writing to the Secretary of the Democratic National Committee within three (3) days after the selection. (Call, IV.F.3. & Reg. 5.6.B.)

Section VI

General Provisions and Procedural Guarantees

- A. The **Vermont** Democratic Party reaffirms its commitment to an open party by incorporating the “six basic elements” as listed below. These provisions demonstrate the intention of the Democratic Party to ensure a full opportunity for all minority group members to participate in the delegate selection process. (*Rule 4.A. & Rule C*)
1. All public meetings at all levels of the Democratic Party in Vermont should be open to all members of the Democratic Party regardless of race, sex, age, color, creed, national origin, religion, ethnic identity, sexual orientation, gender identity, economic status or physical disability (hereinafter collectively referred to as “status”). (*Rule 4.B.1*)
 2. No test for membership in, nor any oaths of loyalty to, the Democratic Party in Vermont should be required or used which has the effect of requiring prospective or current members of the Democratic Party to acquiesce in, condone or support discrimination based on “status.” (*Rule 4.B.2*)
 3. The time and place for all public meetings of the Democratic Party in Vermont on all levels should be publicized fully and in such manner as to assure timely notice to all interested persons. Such meetings must be held in places accessible to all Party members and large enough to accommodate all interested persons. (*Rule 4.B.3*)
 4. The Democratic Party in Vermont, on all levels, should support the broadest possible registration without discrimination based on “status.” (*Rule 4.B.4*)
 5. The Democratic Party in Vermont should publicize fully and in such a manner as to assure notice to all interested parties a full description of the legal and practical procedures for selection of Democratic Party officers and representatives on all levels. Publication of these procedures should be done in such fashion that all prospective and current members of each State Democratic Party

will be fully and adequately informed of the pertinent procedures in time to participate in each selection procedure at all levels of the Democratic Party organization. *(Rule 4.B.5)*

5. The Democratic Party in Vermont should publicize fully and in such a manner as to assure notice to all interested parties, a complete description of the legal and practical qualifications of all positions as officers and representatives of the State Democratic Party. Such publication should be done in timely fashion so that all prospective candidates or applicants for any elected or appointed position within each State Democratic Party will have full and adequate opportunity to compete for office. *(Rule 4.B.6)*
- B. Discrimination on the basis of "status" in the conduct of Democratic Party affairs is prohibited. *(Rule 5.B)*
- C. Vermont's delegation shall be equally divided between delegate men and delegate women, and alternate men and alternate women. Such goal applies to the entire delegation, which includes all pledged delegates and alternates and all unpledged delegates. Delegates and alternates shall be considered separate groups for purposes of achieving equal division. *(Rule 6.C)*
- D. All delegate and alternate candidates must be identified as to presidential preference or uncommitted status at all levels which determine presidential preference. *(Rule 12.A)*
- E. No delegate at any level of the delegate selection process shall be mandated by law or Party rules to vote contrary to that person's presidential choice as expressed at the time the delegate is elected. *(Rule 12.I)*
- F. Delegates elected to the national convention pledged to a presidential candidate shall in all good conscience reflect the sentiments of those who elected them. *(Rule 12.J)*
- G. All delegates, alternates and standing committee members must be bona fide Democrats who have the interests, welfare and success of the Democratic Party of the United States at heart, who subscribe to the substance, intent and principles of the Charter and Bylaws of the Democratic Party of the United States, and who will participate in the Convention in good faith. *(Rule 12.H & Reg. 4.25)*
- H. 40% of the members of any Party body above the first level of the delegate selection process shall constitute a quorum for any business pertaining to the selection of National Convention delegates, alternates, standing committee members, and other official Convention participants. *(Rule 15)*
- I. Proxy votes shall not be permitted at any stage of the Vermont delegate selection process. *(Rule 16 & Reg. 4.29)*
- J. The unit rule, or any rule or practice whereby all members of a Party unit or delegation may be required to cast their votes in accordance with the will of a majority of the body, shall not be used at any stage of the delegate selection process. *(Rule 17.A)*
- K. Any individual or group of Democrats may sponsor or endorse a slate of candidates for convention delegates. But no slate may, by virtue of such endorsement, receive a preferential place on a delegate selection ballot or be publicly identified on the ballot as the official Democratic Party organization slate,

and all slates must meet identical qualifying requirements for appearing on a ballot at all levels of the delegate selection process. *(Rule 17.B)*

- L. All steps in the delegate selection process, including the filing of presidential candidates, must take place within the calendar year of the Democratic National Convention, except with respect to the implementation of the Affirmative Action Plan. *(Rule 1.F & Rule 11.B)*

- M. In electing and certifying delegates and alternates to the 2016 Democratic National Convention, Vermont thereby undertakes to assure all Democratic voters in the state a full, timely and equal opportunity to participate in the delegate selection process and in all Party affairs and to implement affirmative action programs toward that end: that the delegates and alternates to the Convention shall be selected in accordance with the Delegate Selection Rules for the 2016 Democratic National Convention: and that the delegates certified will not publicly support or campaign for any candidate for President or Vice President other than the nominees of the Democratic National Convention. Furthermore, voters in the state will have the opportunity to cast their election ballots for the Presidential and Vice Presidential nominees selected by said Convention, and for electors pledged formally and in good conscience to the election of these Presidential and Vice Presidential nominees, under the label and designation of the Democratic Party of the United States. *(Call II.B)*

Section VII

Affirmative Action, Outreach and Inclusion Plan

A. Statement of Purpose and Organization

- 1. Purpose and Objectives
 - a. In order that the Democratic Party at all levels be an open Party, which includes rather than excludes people from participation, a program of effective affirmative action is hereby adopted by Vermont. *(Rule 5.A.)*

 - b. Discrimination on the basis of “status” in the conduct of Democratic Party affairs is prohibited. *(Rule 5.B.)*

 - c. All public meetings at all levels of the Democratic Party in Vermont should be open to all members of the Democratic Party regardless of race, sex, age, color, creed, national origin, religion, ethnic identity, sexual orientation, gender identity, economic status or physical disability (hereinafter collectively referred to as “status”.) *(Rule 4.B.(1))*

 - d. Consistent with the Democratic Party’s commitment to including groups historically under-represented in the Democratic Party’s affairs, by virtue of race/ethnicity, age, sexual orientation, gender identity and presentation or disability, Vermont has developed Party outreach programs. Such programs include recruitment, education and

training, in order to achieve full participation by such groups and diversity in the delegate selection process and at all levels of Party affairs for 2016. (Rule 5.C & Reg. 4.7.)

- e. In order to encourage full participation by all Democrats in the delegate selection process and in all Party affairs, the Vermont Democratic Party has adopted and will implement programs with specific goals and timetables for African Americans, Hispanics, Native Americans, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, LGBT, youth, members of the disabled community, and women. (Rule 6.A.)
 - (1) The goal of the programs shall be to encourage participation in the delegate selection process and in Party organizations at all levels by the aforementioned groups as indicated by their presence in the Democratic electorate. (Rule 6.A.(1))
 - (2) This goal shall not be accomplished either directly or indirectly by the Party's imposition of mandatory quotas at any level of the delegate selection process or in any other Party affairs. (Rule 6.A.(2))
 - (3) "Youth" is defined as any participant 36 years old and younger.
 - (4) Individuals identifying as Native Americans should provide their tribal affiliation and indicate if they are enrolled in a tribe.
- f. In order to achieve full participation of other groups that may be under-represented in Party affairs, including members of the LGBT community, people with disabilities and youth, the **Vermont** Democratic Party has adopted and will implement Inclusion Programs. (Rule 7)

2. Organizational Structure

- a. An Affirmative Action Committee shall be appointed by the State Democratic Chair on March 2, 2015. (Rule 6.F.)
- b. The State Democratic Chair shall certify in writing to the Rules and Bylaws Committee of the Democratic National Committee the compliance of the State's Affirmative Action Committee with Rules 5.C, 6.A and 7, and submit the names, demographic data and contact information no later than 15 days after their appointment. (Reg. 2.2.K)
- c. The Committee shall consist of members from each delegate district representing the Democratic constituency groups set forth in the Introduction to the Affirmative Action Plan.
- d. The Affirmative Action Committee shall be responsible for:
 - (1) Reviewing the proposed Delegate Selection and Affirmative Action Plans and making recommendations to the State Democratic Chair.

- (2) Reviewing the proposed Inclusion Programs and making recommendations to the State Democratic Chair.
 - (3) Directing the implementation of all requirements of the Affirmative Action section of this Plan.
 - (4) Implementing a financial assistance program for delegates and alternates. (Rule 6.G.)
 - (5) Ensuring, on behalf of the State Party Committee, that district lines used in the delegate selection process are not gerrymandered to discriminate against African Americans, Hispanics, Native Americans, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders and women. (Rule 6.E.)
- e. Financial and staff support for the Affirmative Action Committee shall be provided by the State Party Committee to the greatest extent feasible, including, but not limited to, making available on a priority basis, the State Party staff and volunteers and covering all reasonable costs incurred in carrying out this Plan.
3. Implementation of the Affirmative Action Plan shall begin on August 1, 2015, with the distribution of the press kits, and will continue through the end of the delegate selection process. (Rule 1.F.)

B. Efforts to Educate on the Delegate Selection Process

1. Well-publicized educational workshops will be conducted in each of the delegate districts beginning in September 2015. These workshops will be designed to encourage participation in the delegate selection process, including apprising potential delegate candidates of the availability of financial assistance. These workshops will be held in places, which are easily accessible to persons with physical disabilities. The times, dates, places and rules for the conduct of all education workshops, meetings and other events involved in the delegate selection process shall be effectively publicized by the party organization and include mailings to various organizations representative of the Democratic voting populace. (Rules 3.A., 3.C. & 3.D.)
2. A speakers bureau of volunteers from the Affirmative Action Committee comprised of individuals who are fully familiar with the process, will be organized to appear before groups, as needed, to provide information concerning the process.
3. The State Party's education efforts will include outreach to community leaders within the Democratic Party's constituencies and making sure that information about the delegate selection process is available to Democratic clubs and Party caucuses representing specific constituencies.
4. The State Party will publish and make available at no cost: a clear and concise explanation of how Democratic voters can participate in the delegate selection process; an explanation of how, where and when persons can register to vote; and delegate district maps. As well, the State Party shall also make available copies of the State Party Rules, the Delegate Selection

Plan (and its attachments), the Affirmative Action Plan, and relevant state statutes at no cost. Copies of documents related to the state's delegate selection process will be prepared and the Affirmative Action Committee will distribute them in the various delegate districts not later than November 1, 2015. (Rule 1.H.)

5. The State Party shall take all feasible steps to encourage persons to register and to vote as Democrats and will seek to ensure simple and easy registration procedures. (Rule 2.C.)

C. Efforts to Publicize the Delegate Selection Process

1. Special attention shall be directed at publicizing the delegate selection process in the state. Such publicity shall include information on eligibility to vote and how to become a candidate for delegate, the time and location of each stage of the delegate selection process and where to get additional information. The foregoing information will also be published in the State Party communications and on the State Party's website. The Party organization, official, candidate, or member calling a meeting or scheduling an event, shall effectively publicize the role that such meeting or event plays in the selection of delegates and alternates to the Democratic National Convention. (Rules 3.C. and 3.D.)
2. Newspapers, radio and television will be utilized to inform the general public how, when and where to participate in the delegate selection process. Specifically, this information should provide details as to how to qualify to run as a delegate candidate. Special effort shall be directed to the major daily newspapers, radio and television stations by the State Democratic Chair, Affirmative Action Committee members and staff. Regular releases during the delegate selection process to all other media sources, weekly newspapers, and wire services should complete timely coverage. (Rules 4.B.(3) & 6.D.)
3. A priority effort shall be directed at publicity among the Democratic Party's constituencies.
 - a. Information about the delegate selection process will be provided to minority newspapers and radio stations, ethnic press, Native American, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, Spanish-speaking and other non-English press, radio stations and publications, and women's organizations, student newspapers, LGBT press, disability press, and any other specialty media in the state that is likely to reach the Democratic constituency groups set forth in the Introduction of this Affirmative Action Plan.
 - b. The State Party shall be responsible for the implementation of this publicity effort. For purposes of providing adequate notice of the delegate selection process, the times, dates, places and rules for the conduct of caucuses, conventions and meetings shall be effectively publicized, multilingual where necessary, to encourage the participation of minority groups. (Rule 6.D.)
4. Not later than September 15, 2015, a press kit shall be made and provided to each daily and weekly newspaper as well as to the electronic media. The press kit will include:
 - a. A summary of all pertinent rules related to the state's delegate selection process;

- b. A summary explaining the operation and importance of the 2016 Convention; and
- c. Materials designed to encourage participation by prospective delegate candidates.

D. Representation Goals

- 1. The State Party has determined the demographic composition of African Americans, Hispanics, Native Americans, and Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in the state’s Democratic electorate. These constituency percentages shall be established as goals for representation in the state’s convention delegation. (Rule 6.A.)
- 2. The State Party has determined the demographic composition of members of the LGBT community, people with disabilities, and youth in the state’s Democratic electorate and furthermore, the State Party has chosen to establish these percentages as goals for representation in the state’s convention delegation.

	African Americans	Hispanics	Native Americans	Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders	LGBT Americans	Disabled	Young (18-34)
% In Democratic Electorate	1.2%	1.7%	1%	1%	10%	14%	17%
Numeric Goals for Delegation	1	1	1	1	2	2	3

Since Vermont does not have party registration, the goals have been based on the 2010 US Census

- 3. When selecting the at-large portion of the delegation, the demographic composition of the other delegates (district-level, pledged PLEO, and unpledged) shall be compared with the State Party’s goals in order to achieve an at-large selection process, which helps to bring about a representative balance.
- 4. Use of the at-large delegation to achieve the affirmative action goals established by this Plan does not obviate the need for the State Party to conduct outreach activities such as recruitment, education and training. (Rule 6.A.(3))

E. Obligations of Presidential Candidates to Maximize Participation

- 1. Presidential candidates shall assist the Vermont Democratic Party in meeting the demographic representation goals reflected in the Affirmative Action Plan. (Rule 6.H.)
- 2. Each presidential candidate must submit a written statement to the State Democratic Chair by October 1, 2015 which indicates the specific steps he or she will take to encourage full participation in Vermont’s delegate selection process, including, but not limited to, procedures by which persons may file as candidates for delegate or alternate. (Rule 6.H.(1))
- 3. Each presidential candidate must submit demographic information with respect to all candidates for delegate and alternate pledged to them. Such information shall be submitted

in conjunction with the list of names approved for consideration as delegate and alternate candidates pledged to the presidential candidate. (Rule 6.H.(2))

4. Presidential candidates (including uncommitted status) shall use their best effort to ensure that their respective delegations within the state's delegate, alternate and standing committee delegations shall achieve the affirmative action goals reflected in the Affirmative Action Plan and that the respective delegations of each presidential candidate shall be equally divided between men and women. Furthermore, presidential candidates shall use their best efforts at the district level to approve delegate and alternate candidates who meet applicable equal division and affirmative action considerations in order to achieve the affirmative action goals and equal division for their respective delegations. (Rule 6.I. & Reg. 4.9.)

F. Inclusion Programs

1. In order to achieve full participation of other groups that may be under-represented in Party affairs, including members of the LGBT community, people with disabilities and youth, the Vermont Democratic Party has adopted and will implement Inclusion Programs.
2. The State Party has taken reasonable steps to determine the composition of members of the LGBT community, people with disabilities, and youth in the state's Democratic electorate.
3. In securing this level of full participation, the State Party will conduct the education and publicity outreach efforts outlined in Sections B and C of this Section respectively.
4. The State Party will make accommodations to facilitate greater participation by people with disabilities.

Section VIII Challenges

A. Jurisdiction & Standing

1. Challenges related to the delegate selection process are governed by the *Regulations of the DNC Rules and Bylaws Committee for the 2016 Democratic National Convention* (Regs., Sec. 3.), and the "Rules of Procedure of the Credentials Committee of the 2016 Democratic National Convention." (Call, Appendix A.)
2. Under Rule 20.B. of the *2016 Delegate Selection Rules*, the DNC Rules and Bylaws Committee has jurisdiction over challenges pertaining to the submission, non-implementation and violation of state Delegate Selection and Affirmative Action Plans. (Rule 20.B. & Call Appendix A.)
3. The Rules and Bylaws Committee has jurisdiction to hear and decide any challenge provided it is initiated before the 56th day preceding the date of the commencement of the 2016 Democratic National Convention. (Call, Appendix A. & Reg., 3.1.)

4. Challenges to the credentials of delegates and alternates to the 2016 Democratic National Convention initiated on or after the 56th day preceding the date of commencement of the Democratic National Convention shall be processed in accordance with the “Rules of Procedure of the Credentials Committee of the 2016 Democratic National Convention.” (Call, Appendix A)
5. Any challenge to the credentials of a standing committee member shall be considered and resolved by the affected standing committee in accordance with Appendix A of the *Call for the 2016 Democratic National Convention*. The Rules and Bylaws Committee shall have jurisdiction over challenges brought before the 56th day preceding the date of the commencement of the Democratic National Convention. (Call, VII.B.5.)
6. Copies of the Regulations of the Rules and Bylaws Committee and/or the Call for the 2016 Democratic National Convention, including the Rules of Procedure of the Credentials Committee (Appendix A), shall be made available by the State Party upon reasonable request.
7. Any group of fifteen Democrats with standing to challenge as defined in Reg. 3.2 or the Call (Appendix A, Sec. 2.A.), may bring a challenge to this Plan or to the implementation of this Plan, including its Affirmative Action provisions.

B. Challenges to the Status of the State Party and Challenges to the Plan

1. A challenge to the status of the State Party Committee as the body entitled to sponsor a delegation from that state shall be filed with the Rules and Bylaws Committee not later than thirty (30) calendar days prior to the initiation of the state’s delegate selection process. (Rule 20.A. & Reg. 3.4.A.)
2. A challenge to the state’s Delegate Selection Plan shall be filed with the Chair of the Vermont Democratic Party and the Co-Chairs of the Rules and Bylaws Committee within fifteen (15) calendar days after the adoption of the Plan by the State Party. (Reg. 3.4.B.)
3. A challenge to a Plan must be brought in conformity with the Rules and the Regs., which should be consulted for a detailed explanation of challenge procedures.

C. Challenges to Implementation

1. A challenge may be brought alleging that a specific requirement of an approved Plan has not been properly implemented. Jurisdiction over all challenges initiated in a timely fashion shall reside with either the Rules and Bylaws Committee or the Credentials Committee of the National Convention (See Section VII.A. above). However, the Rules and Bylaws Committee may provide advice, assistance or interpretations of the Delegate Selection Rules at any stage of the delegate selection process. (Reg. 3.1.C.)
2. An implementation challenge brought before the Rules and Bylaws Committee is initiated by filing a written challenge with the State Party Committee and with the Rules and Bylaws Committee not later than fifteen (15) days after the alleged violation occurred. The State Party has twenty-one (21) days to render a decision. Within ten (10) days of the decision, any

party to the challenge may appeal it to the Rules and Bylaws Committee. If in fact, the State Party renders no decision, any party to the challenge may request the Rules and Bylaws Committee to process it. The request must be made within ten (10) days after expiration of the above twenty-one (21) day period. (Regs. 3.4.C., E., & H.)

3. Performance under an approved Affirmative Action Plan and composition of the convention delegation shall be considered relevant evidence in the challenge to any state delegation. If a State Party has adopted and implemented an approved affirmative action program, the State Party shall not be subject to challenge based solely on delegation composition or primary results. (Rule 6.B.) The procedures are the same for challenges alleging failure to properly implement the Affirmative Action section of a Plan, except that such challenges must be filed not later than thirty (30) days prior to the initiation of the state's delegate selection process. (Reg. 3.4.C.)
4. Depending on the appropriate jurisdiction (see Section VIII.A. above), implementation challenges must be brought in conformity with the Regulations of the Rules and Bylaws Committee or the Rules of Procedure of the Credentials Committee, which should be consulted for a detailed explanation of challenge procedures.

Section IX Summary of Plan

A. Selection of Delegates and Alternates

Vermont will use a proportional representation system based on the results of the Presidential Preference Primary apportioning its delegates to the 2016 Democratic National Convention.

The “first determining step” of Vermont’s delegate selection process will occur on 3/6/12, with Presidential Preference Primary.

Delegates and alternates will be selected as summarized on the following chart:

Type	Dele-gates	Alter-nates	Date of Selection	Selecting Body
				Filing Requirements and Deadlines
District-Level Delegates District-Level Alternates	11	0	5/21/2016	<i>Selecting Body: Presidential Preference Caucus State Convention</i> <i>May 5, 2016 at 4PM: Letter of Intent/Pledge of support form submitted</i>
Unpledged Party Leader and Elected Official Delegates*	8	n/a	n/a	Automatic by virtue of respective public or Party office as provided in Rule 8.A. of the 2016 Delegate Selection Rules.
Pledged Party Leaders and Elected Officials (PLEOs)	2	**	6/11/2016	<i>Selecting Body: District Delegates</i> <i>May 27, 2016 at 4PM: Letter of Intent/pledge of support form</i>
At-Large Delegates At-Large Alternates	3	2	6/11/2016	<i>Selecting Body: District Delegates</i> <i>May 28, 2016 at 4PM: letter of intent/Pledge of support form submitted</i>
TOTAL Delegates and Alternates	24	2		

* Unpledged Party Leader and Elected Official (PLEO) delegates includes the following categories, if applicable, who legally reside in the state: the Democratic National Committee Members, the Democratic President, the Democratic Vice President, all Democratic Members of Congress, the Democratic Governor, and any other Distinguished Party Leader as specified in Rule 9.A. of the *2016 Delegate Selection Rules*. The exact number of Unpledged PLEO Delegates is subject to change due to possible deaths, resignations, elections or special elections.

** Pledged Party Leader and Elected Official (PLEO) alternates are selected with the At-Large alternates.

B. Selection of Standing Committee Members (For the Credentials, Platform and Rules Committees)

Standing committee members will be selected by the state’s National Convention delegates as summarized below:

Members Per Committee	Total Members	Selection Date	Filing Requirements and Deadlines
1	3	6/11/2016	<i>Presidential candidate submission by June 11, 2016. Presidential candidates should provide the names for standing committee members after the PLEO and at-large delegates have been selected.</i>

C. Selection of Delegation Chair and Convention Pages

The Delegation Chair will be selected by the National Convention Delegates on 6/11/2016.

Vermont Convention Pages will be selected by the State Democratic Chair on 6/11/2016.

D. Presidential Candidate Filing Deadline

Presidential primary petitions and consent forms for major party candidates who wish to be on the ballot for a major party presidential primary shall be filed with the Secretary of State not later than 5:00 p.m. on the first Monday after the first Tuesday of January, signed by at least 1,000 registered Vermont voters. The petitions must be accompanied by a \$2,000.00 filing fee and a consent of candidate to the printing of his or her name on the ballot. If the petition is accompanied by an affidavit of the candidate that the candidate and the candidate's campaign committee are without sufficient funds to pay the filing fee, the secretary of state shall waive all but \$300.00 of the payment. 17 V.S.A. §§ 2702, 2353, 2354, 2358
 In accordance with 17 V.S.A. § 2103(13), presidential primary petitions will be accepted by the secretary of state’s office until 5:00 p.m. on Monday, January 11.

For more information, contact the Secretary of State Election Division at (800) 439-8683 or Office of the Secretary of State, Elections Division, 128 State Street, Montpelier, VT, 05633

Each presidential candidate shall certify in writing to the State Democratic Chair, the name(s) of his or her authorized representative(s) by January 13, 2016 to Vermont Democratic Party, PO Box 1220, Montpelier, VT, 05408. (Rule 12.D.(1))

E. Timetable

Vermont 2016 Delegate Selection Plan

(Reg. 2.2.B.)

Date	Activity
2015	
February 2	Delegate Selection Affirmative Action Committee members are appointed by the State Chair. <i>[Note: This appointment is required to be made by March 2, 2015.]</i>
February 17	Delegate Selection Affirmative Action Committee members must be submitted to the Rules and Bylaws Committee including names, contact information and demographic data.
April 6	Public comments are solicited on the proposed Delegate Selection and Affirmative Action Plans. Press releases are mailed announcing the public comment period.
April 11	Affirmative Action Committee meetings to discuss Delegate Selection Plan and delegate affirmative action roles among members, as well as design calendar for affirmative action public and community- specific meetings
May 6	Period for Public comment on the state Plan is concluded. Responses are compiled for review by the State Party Committee.
May 30	State Committee reviews public comments and adopts revised Delegate Selection and Affirmative Action Plans for submission to DNC Rules and Bylaws Committee. Press releases are mailed announcing the approval of the Plan.
May 31	Delegate Selection and Affirmative Action Plans are forwarded to the DNC Rules and Bylaws Committee.
August 1	State Party begins implementation of the Affirmative Action Plan. Press kits, as described in the Affirmative Action Plan, are sent to all state media.
October 1	Deadline for each announced presidential candidate to submit a statement specifying steps the candidate will take to encourage full participation in the delegate selection process. (Individuals who announce their candidacy after this date must provide this full participation statement to the State Party not later than 30 days after their announcement.)
2016	
January 6	Delegate and alternate candidates may obtain the statement of candidacy and pledge of support forms and filing instructions from State Party Committee Headquarters, in person, by mail, or from the Vermont Democratic Party's web site at www.vtdemocrats.org/delegate .
January 11	Presidential candidate deadline for filing the petition of candidacy with the Secretary of State and a copy to the State Party. (5PM)
January 13	Presidential candidate deadline for certifying the name(s) of their authorized representative(s) to the State Party.
February 24	5PM: Voter Registration Deadline for Presidential Preference Primary
March 1	Presidential Preference Primary
March 26	Post-Primary Town Caucuses (Delegates to State Convention are determined)
May 5	4PM: District Level Delegate candidates pledge of support deadline.
May 9	Chair of VDP submits list of district-level candidates to Presidential Candidate for review
May 12	4PM: Presidential Candidates provide approved list of District Delegates and Alternates to VDP
May 28	4PM: At-large Delegate and Alternate pledge of support deadline
May 30	State Party provides list of PLEO and at-large delegate and alternate candidates to the respective Presidential candidates.
June 6	Presidential candidates provide approved list of pledged PLEO delegate candidates to State Party.
June 11	12PM: District-Level Delegates meet with a 40% quorum to elect PLEO Delegates, At-large Delegates, Standing Committee and Pages.
June 14	State Chair certifies in writing to the Secretary of the DNC the State's Delegation Chair, Convention Pages and Standing Committee Members. State Party certifies in writing to the Secretary of the DNC the presidential preference of Pledged PLEOs and At-Large Delegates and Alternates. State Party certifies in writing to the Secretary of the DNC the presidential preference (including uncommitted) of the state's Unpledged Delegates.